

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Movements at the Schweinrich Troop Training Grounds and Return to
to Magdeburg of Units of the 19th Gdr Mech DivEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 9 September 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Between 1100 and noon on 17 August 1954, several columns passed through Gadow in the Schweinrich training area. The units, which probably engaged in exercises, included eight tanks with numbers between 451 and 461, about 22 trucks

On 18 August, several columns with tanks, armored scout cars, rocket launchers, trucks, and motorcycles passed through Gadow and proceeded toward Zechlin. The columns included approximately 29 tanks

3 rocket launchers 5 motorcycles and about 40 trucks

Most of the trucks were occupied by soldiers wearing gas masks. At 1100 on 21 August, tank and truck columns passed through Gadow. The columns came from the direction of Zechlin and went southeast. Tanks

were seen. Three of the trucks towed mortars.

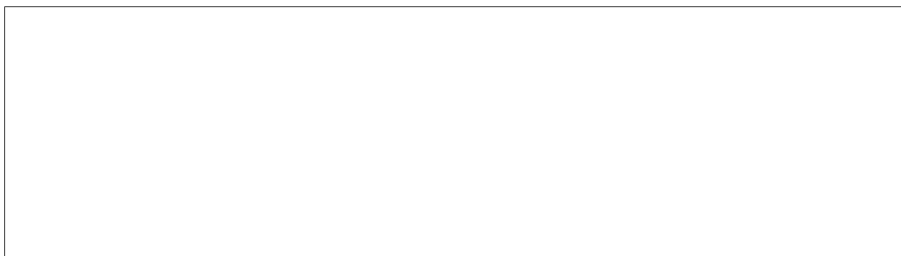
2. Between 26 and 28 August, firing practices were held in the Schweinrich area throughout the day and night. All approach roads were blocked. Some were guarded by officers. 1
3. Between 0700 and 2200 on 21 August, intensive traffic of columns, individual motor vehicles and heavy weapons was observed on the northern road bridge in Magdeburg. The trucks which went east included some carrying ammunition and equipment. About 200 trucks, tanks, 13 armored personnel carriers, 8 x 57-mm AT guns, 2 x 85-mm AT guns, and 3 x 120-mm mortars were observed.

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T-34/85 tanks [redacted] were also seen.

4. At about 0900 on 21 August, there were indications of a re-occupation of Nachrichten Kaserne (5286) in Magdeburg. Ten trucks [redacted] were seen in the barracks yard. The detached buildings on Herrenkrug Strasse opposite the barracks installation were being occupied. The barracks buildings were partially lit at dusk.

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5. At 2100 on 21 August, the buildings of Herrenkrug Kaserne (5283) in Magdeburg were fully lighted. 2

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1. [redacted] Comment. Tank and motor vehicle [redacted] observed belonged to the 18th Mech Div. Units of the division probably conducted exercises of all branches of service at the Schweinrich training grounds during the month of August. At that time, other divisions also engaged in exercises. These were conducted mostly at reinforced regimental level or in mixed combat units of similar strength.

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2. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the columns which were seen en route to the barracks installations belonged to the 19th Sds Mech Div. They may have been the first elements returning from Letsling Heath. This assumption is, to a certain extent, confirmed by the number of lighted windows of the two installations in the evening of 21 August.

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